

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgement of an Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 5, 2003. An additional copy of the Form PTO-1449 is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

The specification stands objected to because it refers to the claims. In response, Applicants amended the specification to delete all references to the claims, and request withdrawal of the objection on this basis.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,544). In response, Applicants amended claim 1 to recite, among other things, a lever provided between the cam and a detecting switch for transmitting a displacement of the cam to the detecting switch, and respectfully traverse.

The Examiner cites Sato as teaching, among other things, "a lever provided between the cam and the switch 43 for detecting the on or off position of the cover (see figure 3, 7 and 8)." Applicants respectfully disagree with this statement by the Examiner.

Sato merely discloses a computer main body 3 connected via a hinge mechanism 12 to a display device 9. A shaft 41 is shaped like an eccentric cylinder. When the display device 9 is open, a switch 43 is turned off through direct contact with the shaft. Sato does not disclose or suggest a lever provided between the cam and the detecting switch, as recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 1 and its associated depending claims 3-4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ninomiya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,642,462). In response, Applicants amended claim 1 to recite, among other things, a lever that is provided between the cam and the detecting switch, and respectfully traverse.

Ninomiya is directed to portable electronic equipment that includes a casing, a lid body which is rotatably supported on the casing, and a hinge member which is formed by mounting the frame body on one of the lid body and the casing. A switch detects rotation of the lid body, and is formed of an individual rotary switch which accommodates a rotary manipulation body having a shaft hole that receives a rigid shaft body 2. (See FIGs. 3-6 and 9, for example). The shaft rotates switch contacts, and is not a lever. Thus, Ninomiya does not disclose a lever, as recited in amended claim 1.

As illustrated in FIGs. 3-4, the present invention includes a lever 35. In one embodiment, the lever 35 is made of a sheet spring material which is fixedly joined at one end along a direction denoted by the arrow X2 in Fig. 3 to a main body 22 of the electronic apparatus. Advantageously, this allows the lever 35 to be supported in a cantilever relationship. More specifically, the lever 35 can be arranged in a Z shape to include an upper tab portion 36 and a lower tab portion 37. The upper tab portion 36 can engage with the actuating portion 34 of a cam 33. The lower tab portion 37 engages a switching knob 31 of a detecting switch 30. In this manner, when the upper tab portion 36 is depressed by the actuating portion 34 of the cam, the lever elastically deforms to cause the lower tab portion

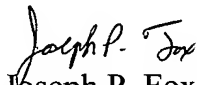
37 to press down the switching knob 31. Accordingly, when the cover unit 23 is closed, the detecting switch 30 can generate a signal output which indicates a closing movement of the cover unit 23. Since Ninomiya fails to disclose or suggest a lever, as recited in the present invention, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of independent claim 1 and its associated depending claims 3-4 is respectfully requested.

New claims 5-7 correspond to amended claims 1 and 3-4 respectively, with the “main body” defined as “a first unit” and the “cover unit” defined as “a second unit”. New independent claim 8 recites an electronic apparatus that includes, among other things, a lever provided between a cam and a detecting switch for transmitting the displacement of the cam to the detecting switch. New claims 9 and 10 correspond to amended claims 3 and 4, respectfully, but depend from new claim 8. New claims 11-13 depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 8, respectfully, and further recite that the lever is elastically deformable. Since the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a lever, as recited in independent claims 1, 5 and 8, new claims 5-13 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Moreover, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest an elastically deformable lever, as recited in new claims 11-13. For these reasons, Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 5-13.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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